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1966



**BOROUGH  
OF  
MALMESBURY**



BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY

THE  
ANNUAL REPORT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED

31st. DECEMBER, 1966.

The Mayor, Alderman & Councillors,  
Malmesbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1966 in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of The Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Copies of the Report are required by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and H.M. Inspector of Factories; a copy is also sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

The report of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. J.R.M. Walker is incorporated and provides detailed information on environmental health within the Borough.

I am grateful to Mr. Walker and the staff of the Council for their co-operation and assistance during the year under review.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.  
5, High Street, Chippenham Tel: Chipp.2821.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne and Chippenham and the Rural Districts of Malmesbury and Calne & Chippenham R.D.C. Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

J.R.M. Walker, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.,  
Diploma R.S.H. Meat & Other Foods

Mr. Walker in addition carries out the duties of Borough Surveyor.

(c) SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.H.

(d) PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The General Purposes Committee of the Council deals with all matters pertaining to Public Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	...	227
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	2,680.
Number of habitable dwellings (end of 1966 according to the Rate Book)	..	893
Number of Council dwellings at the end of 1966	..	254
Number of applicants for council dwellings at the end of 1966	..	60
Rateable Value	..	£87,182
Sum represented by the Penny Rate	..	£343.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Birth & Death Rates as compared with other areas.

(Births and Deaths per 1,000 population) standardised\*

	Birth Rate		Death Rate	
	1965	1966	1965	1966
Maltesbury Borough	23.4	18.7	12.9	12.9
Maltesbury R.D.C.	17.0	18.9	11.9	10.1
Wiltshire	19.6	18.7	10.2	10.4
England & Wales	18.0	17.7	11.5	11.7

\* Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of the population in different parts of the Country. When applied to the local rates, they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas

## STILL BIRTHS

No still births were notified during 1966.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

Three infants, all under the age of one year, died during 1966. The Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1000 live births is 62.5; the comparative rate for England & Wales is given by the Registrar General as 19.0. The high Infant Mortality Rate has no significance in view of the small numbers involved.

DEATHS

The following deaths were notified during 1966.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
22	18	40.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	3	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	2	3
Coronary disease, angina	2	3	5
Other heart disease	4	2	6
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	-	1	1
Other defined & Ill defined dis.	1	1	2
<b>TOTAL ALL CAUSES:</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>40</b>

Almost half of the deaths occurring in the Borough during 1966 were due collectively to Cancer, Coronary Disease and Heart Disease.

INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Notifiable diseases are those conditions defined in the appropriate sections of Public Health Legislation, and the number is limited.

At present, some notifiable diseases are largely of historic value and much non-notifiable disease is of greater public health importance. Notification serves two main purposes, it is of epidemiological and statistical value to the Ministry of Health and Major Authorities and is of immediate importance in the control of infectious disease among the local community. Early notification is essential if control measures are to be effective.

Apart from a small outbreak of measles during April, May and June, involving a total of 63 children in the 5 to 9 year age group, and two cases of dysentery (both children in the 5-9 year age group), the Borough enjoyed freedom from epidemic infectious disease during the year under review; cases of Smallpox, Typhoid, Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria for example were conspicuous by their absence,

Only one case of tuberculosis was notified during the year. The patient, a male aged 22 years was admitted to a Chest Hospital for treatment; follow up surveillance of family contacts was carried out by the Chest Physician.

In addition to new cases of tuberculosis notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous persons either move into the Borough, or move out. According to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the following notified and confirmed cases were living in Malmesbury at the end of 1966.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Respiratory	7	7	14
Non-respiratory	3	1	4
Total:-	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>18</u>

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - IMMUNISATION & VACCINATION

Under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act, 1948 provision for vaccination against Smallpox, Diphtheria and such other diseases as the Minister may approve, is the responsibility of the County Council Health Committee. Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping-Cough and Tetanus is available from one's family doctor and from County Council Child Welfare Immunisation Clinics. Triple antigen is now universally used and a course of injections with vaccine protects against all these diseases. With older children, vaccine immunising against Diphtheria and Tetanus, or Tetanus alone is available. Polio vaccination, using Sabin oral vaccine is offered at Clinics and by General Practitioners. Smallpox vaccination is carried out by the General Practitioners at their patient's request.

I am indebted to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, the County Medical Officer of Health for the following figures concerning immunisation and vaccination procedures carried out in the Borough during the year.

## Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus.

## Smallpox

Age Group	<u>Months.</u>				<u>Years.</u>		
	<u>0-3</u>	<u>3-6</u>	<u>6-9</u>	<u>9-12</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2-4</u>	<u>5-15</u>
Vaccinations	-	1	1	5	15	5	1
Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	1	3

<u>Age Group</u>	3rd	2nd.	3rd.inj	4th	3 oral	2 oral	4th.oral	Quad inj.	or 4	Quad.inj.	doses	after	after 3	2 injs.	injs or	3 oral.
1966	-	-	-	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1965	-	-	-	-	-	50	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1964	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1963	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1962	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1957-1961	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	-
1951-1956	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Others under 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other over 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

#### LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

The County Council Health Committee provide the following Health Services:-

1. The care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.
2. Provision of midwives and maternity nurses.
3. Provision of Health Visitors. A new development is the arrangement whereby Health Visitors will work in closer liaison with General Practitioners.
4. Home Nurses.
5. Arrangements for vaccination and immunisation.
6. Ambulances.
7. Mental Health Services.
8. Home Helps. Such help is available if members of a household are ill, lying-in, suffering from mental illness or aged. A charge is made for such services.
9. Arrangements for the prevention of illness, care and after-care.
10. Health Education.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES.

School Health Services are provided by the County Education Committee. In addition to the routine inspection of children of certain age groups in Schools, a variety of facilities are provided with the aim of finding, assessing and treating physical and mental handicaps, so helping the child to make the best use of education.

TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,  
Malmesbury Borough Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this section of the annual report for 1966, detailed as required by Ministry of Health Circular 1/67. I should like to express my thanks for the assistance and support afforded by Dr. Broomhead, who fully appreciates the problems of this department.

During the year it became increasingly more apparent that running single-handed a public health department combine with that of engineer, surveyor, housing manager, building inspector etc., without full time secretarial assistance has seriously affected office efficiency. Much routine public health work has been neglected due to there being insufficient time available; it is obvious that my predecessors in Malmesbury were obliged to adopt a similar measure. A stage has now been reached where any additional duties imposed upon the department will result in a complete breakdown in the already sketchy routine public health programme. Meat inspection is the only public health function carried out with a reasonable regard to the regulations.

Progress on inspections under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, has been negligible, and no 'follow-up' visits have been made. The position is not quite so poor due to progress previously made, but few food premises received more than one visit during the year. No official inspections of public houses were made.

There has been evidence of a very gradual improvement in the housing situation, but with such a backlog of unfit properties still occupied, and the number of new council houses being erected so small, it is unlikely that at the present rate existing slums in Malmesbury will have been cleared within seven years.

Many office records which I consider necessary for reasonable administration of the department are not kept or are insufficiently detailed, and too much of the routine office work has to be completed by the public health inspector.

#### Water Supplies.

Water supply to the Borough is provided by the North Wilts. Water Board, and has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity during the year.

No. of samples taken .....	1
No. of samples satisfactory.....	1
Natural fluorine content.....	0.35 p.p.m.

The water is not plumbo-solvent.

Approximately 23 separate dwellings have no water laid into the house and obtain supplies from standpipes.

<u>Inhabited houses</u>	
No. Dec. 1966.....	865
No. with internal W/S....	837
No. served by standpipes.....	28.

#### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The district is sewered for the most part by an old system which has been connected to a new ring sewer around the town. All sewage is pumped to the works, which continue to operate at a reasonable level of efficiency. Some difficulty has experienced in keeping suspended solids in the final effluent.

within reasonable limits, on occasion the figure has risen to 46 parts per million, considerably above the recommended maximum of 30 parts per million.

The Borough Council operate a small disposal works serving an estate of their aluminium bungalows situated in the rural district; this became virtually useless due to previous lack of maintenance. Negotiations with an adjacent factory for a combined scheme to pump sewage direct to the main works came to nothing, due to the Borough Council being unwilling to spend approximately £2,000 on the project. A tender to instal a "Monojet" distributor and renew the filter medium had been accepted by the end of December.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses registered in the district.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

There are no dealers or distributors of raw milk in the district. All supplies being delivered from pasteurising plants outside the Borough, prepared in bottles or cartons.

Five samples of pasteurised milk were taken during the year, all of which proved satisfactory.

There are no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the Borough.

Housing Act, 1957.

There are many old properties in Malmesbury without modern conveniences and which are too small or unsuitably arranged for reasonable improvement. Progress has been slow in having these houses condemned due to scarcity of alternative accommodation. Excluding Bremilham Terrace, only one council house became vacant for general letting during 1966, out of a net total of some 230.

Ten properties were closed, or undertakings accepted, following action under Sections 16 and 17. One house had been demolished, one improved and three others are due to be converted. The policy of closing houses appears to have paid dividends, in that people now realize the possibilities of purchasing two or more adjacent cottages and converting them into one, usually with the aid of an improvement grant. Were more council houses available this policy could be pursued in an objective manner, enabling whole blocks of property to be improved simultaneously.

Housing (Financial Provisions), Act, 1958  
House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

There were ten applications for grants approved during the year:

Standard grants.....	3
Discretionary grants.....	7

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960.

There are 43 shops retailing food in one form or another, and all received at least one inspection during the year, excepting public houses and off-licence premises:

Type of Shop.	No.	No. UnSatisfactory.	No. improved by December, 1966.
Grocers	12	2	1
Butchers	5	2	1
Greengrocers	2	-	-
Cafes	4	-	-
Hotels	5	2	2
Public Houses	7	-	-
Off Licences	2	-	-
Bread & Cake Shops	2	1	1
Wet Fish Shops	1	1	1
Sweet Shops	2	-	-
Fish & Chip Shops	1	-	-
	43	8	6

Classification of shops in this manner becomes rather difficult with the smaller family businesses, e.g. grocer, selling greengrocery and wet fish, with a fish and chip business combined.

The one wet fish shop had a proper shop front installed during the year.

Six premises did not comply with Regulation 16 (provision of wash-hand basins) and three with Regulation 19 (provision of suitable sinks). At the end of the year there remained three premises not complying with Regulation 16 and one with Regulation 19. A total of 27 premises are required to comply with Regulation 19.

There are no poultry processing establishments within the district.

#### Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

100% meat inspection was maintained at the slaughterhouse during 1966. The system whereby meat inspection is divided between a local firm of veterinary surgeons and myself has operated most satisfactorily, and will I hope continue to do so.

		Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs.
Animals inspected by Veterinary Surgeons	1,752	30	824	2,422	
Animals inspected by Public Health Inspector	916	83	2,184	3,947.	
Total	2,668	113	3,008	6,369	
Carcasses condemned for other than T.B. or C.Bovis parts.	23	16	9	20	
	765	5	186	687.	
% condemned.....	29.5	18.6	6.5	11.1	
Parts condemned for T.B.....	1	-	-	160	
% condemned for T.B.....		-	-	2.51	
Carcasses affected with C.Bovis.	20	-	-	-	
Carcasses refrigerated.....	20	-	-	-	

Considerable difficulty and delay has been met in having the slaughterhouse premises brought up to standard, but progress is continually being made.

### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Little progress has been made on improving standards in premises covered by this Act, primarily due to there being insufficient time available.

<u>Class of premises.</u>	<u>No. of premises</u> <u>Registered.</u>	<u>No. visited.</u>
Offices	16	9
Retail Shops	37	28
Wholesalers etc.	3	-
Catering premises	6	6
	<u>62</u>	<u>43</u>

### Contraventions

1. Lighting.....	6
2. Sanitary accommodation.	1
3. Washing facilities.....	3
4. Drinkingwater.....	1
5. Clothing accommodation.	5
6. Floors, passages, stairs	4
7. First Aid.....	7
 Total	<u>20</u>

One exemption from the provision of sanitary accommodation was issued.

### Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

There is one site licensed for twelve caravans. Conditions are far from satisfactory, and during the year little attempt was made to comply with several licence conditions. It appears that only a court case will determine this particular problem.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse is collected in most of the Borough twice a week, with a twice monthly salvage collection. During 1966 an experiment of a separate bulky refuse collection met with considerable success, and will now be repeated twice or three times per annum.

The collection vehicle, now ten years old, is now in need of replacement, and several types of compression vehicles have been demonstrated.

Disposal is at present still by tipping on a site within the Borough, though negotiations are well advanced for a joint tip in the Rural District.

### Factories Act, 1961.

#### Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

1.	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>Inspns.</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers</u> <u>prosecuted.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	2	-	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	18	8	-	-
Other Premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding Outworkers)	1	1	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 (continued)

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Nil, under the following sub headings

Want of cleanliness (S.1)  
Overcrowding (S.2)  
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3)  
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)  
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)  
Sanitary conveniences not separate for sexes  
Other offences against the Act (not including  
offences relating to Out-workers),

H.M. Inspector of Factories referred the following

Insufficient sanitary convenience (S.7) .... one case  
found.  
Unsuitable or defective sanitary convenience. one case  
found,

There are no outworkers registered.

This item concludes my section of the annual report  
for 1966.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

J.R.M. WALKER,

Borough Surveyor/Public Health  
Inspector.



